

31 March 1954

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Your letter of March 21, 1954, addressed to [redacted] has been referred to me for reply.

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In your letter you enclose what purports to be a bill for services rendered by you to this Agency. I have carefully reviewed all aspects of your relationship with this Agency and must conclude that there is no financial obligation to you on the part of the Government in any amount or of any nature arising out of that relationship. This in no way relates to any question of success or failure of any activities, but is based on the normal governmental rule that when no undertaking is made by the Government no obligation exists and no expenditure of official funds can be made.

Our records indicate that you were paid in full for those expenses which were authorized, namely one round trip between New York, New York, and Washington, D. C., at the request of this Agency, and a fee for one consultation in New York. Further than these particular expenses, no commitments of any sort were made to reimburse or reward you, and no payments can be made.

You must be aware that many Americans voluntarily assist the Government with no thought of reward but with the thought that such assistance is but one small part of their obligations of citizenship. Where the determination is made in advance that services to the Government will be compensable, an agreement must be made of record to support any such compensation. In your case the record establishes that any activities other than those specified above were voluntarily undertaken by you and that you were specifically notified that no reimbursement could take place without specific prior authorization. Your claim for reimbursement for services is, therefore, denied.

You indicate you may come to Washington in April and that you may take this matter up with unspecified friends here. You are, of course, free to approach anyone you wish at any time, and I merely remind you that you have repeatedly been notified of the confidential nature of your relationship to this Agency and of the activities connected therewith. Unauthorized disclosure of such confidential information would be inimical to the national interest.

Very truly yours,


Lawrence N. Houston
General Counsel

OGC:LRH:jeb

cc: IG

Director of Security

IA&R/DDP (w/basic)

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